



R & H OIL COMPANY

SITE UPDATE

An EPA Update on Activities at the R & H Oil
San Antonio, Texas

June 27, 2001

SITE UPDATE

The R & H Oil Company site (R & H) is an inactive refinery and gasoline blending facility located at 403 Somerset Road in a densely populated area of San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas. In the past, the R&H Oil Company site has also been referred to as the Eldorado Refining and Marketing, Inc. site and Tropicana Energy site. The site is located approximately 6.5 miles southwest of downtown San Antonio and encompasses two properties on a total of 7 acres of land.

Structures remaining on the abandoned site include 40 above ground storage tanks (ASTs), ranging in capacity from 5,000 to 400,000 gallons; process piping; dozens of 55-gallon drums; an API separator, used in petroleum refining to separate oil and water; an earthen sump; and several areas of contaminated soil. Sludge and tar-like material has been observed in and around the ASTs and in the API separator. The drums were found to contain combustible or flammable liquids, acid, oil and water mixtures, and chlorinated solvents.

R & H was proposed to the Superfund National Priorities List (NPL) on June 14, 2001. It was evaluated based on a potential to release to the Edwards Aquifer. The Hazard Ranking System is an environmentally conservative screening tool used to assign a numeric value to sites based on several factors including observed release, potential to release, waste characteristic and targets.

R & H is an abandoned site, the release is uncontrolled and until the site is fully characterized, the "potential" for contamination to migrate exists. A plume of petroleum hydrocarbon-contaminated ground water has been identified in the shallow alluvial aquifer beneath the R&H Oil Company site.

The extent of the groundwater plume has not been determined. Various substances have been detected in the ground water beneath the property, including benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, 2-methyl naphthalene, naphthalene, xylenes, arsenic, barium, and zinc.

Although the contaminated alluvial aquifer is not currently used as a potable water supply, it is underlain by the Edwards aquifer. The placement of R & H on the Superfund National Priorities List allows for the use of Federal Funds to fully characterize the risks associated with this site including investigations of soil and groundwater at the facility. Until this characterization is completed it is unknown if any conduits to the Edwards aquifer exist at this site. In addition EPA is currently considering a removal action to address on-site surficial contamination including removal of hazardous substances and materials from on-site tanks and drums.

The decision to place a site on the NPL is based on many factors and is determined on a site-by-site basis. The site HRS score is one of many factors that the EPA uses to determine if a site is eligible for NPL inclusion. These factors included HRS site score, concurrence by the state governor, state priorities, further site investigation, other response alternatives, and other factors as appropriate.

Extensive ground water investigations have been conducted at Kelly Air Force Base (KAFB). To date, the Air Force in partnership with EPA and the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC), have not identified any current impact to the Edwards aquifer. The TNRCC has designated RCRA authority and has issued a permit and compliance plan to KAFB and the restoration is adequately progressing under RCRA authority. EPA

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believes the State's RCRA actions are addressing the concerns to which Superfund would respond and will be protective of public health and the environment.

Site Repository:

Pan American Library
1122 W. Pyron Avenue
San Antonio, TX 78221
(210) 924-8164

On-Scene Coordinator (Contact for Removal Questions):

Gary Moore, 214-665-6609, Mail Code: 6SF-R2

Remedial Project Manager (Contact for Technical Questions):

Chris Villarreal, 214-665-6758, Mail Code: 6SF-AP

Donn Walters

Community Involvement Coordinator

U. S. EPA Region 6

1445 Ross Avenue

Dallas, TX 75202

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If you wish to be placed on the R & H Oil site mailing list, please fill out and mail this coupon to:

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City/State/Zip: _____